



Patent Application No. 10/086,148  
Attorney Docket No. 13DV-13878 (07783-0094)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of: RIGNEY et al.

Application No.: 10/086,148

Group Art Unit: 3726

Filed: October 22, 2001

Examiner: Rosenbaum, Irene.

For: METHOD FOR REPLACING A DAMAGED TBC CERAMIC LAYER

**REPLY BRIEF**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief – Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellants replies to those portions of the Examiner's Answer of November 22, 2004 that require a reply, as follows:

**7. *GROUPING OF CLAIMS***

In the Grouping of Claims section, the Examiner disagrees with Appellants' statement in the Appeal Brief that the claims do not stand or fall together. The rules permit the reasons underlying this position to be stated in the flow of the discussion under the Argument section, and that is done on a claim-by-claim basis. The reasons underlying the patentability of every claim are discussed separately within the Argument section of the Appeal Brief. Accordingly, the claims are considered separately. Appellants had inadvertently not identified claim 27 in either the Appeal Brief filed April 19, 2004 or the Supplemental Appeal Brief filed August 23, 2004. In